



Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A stent having a generally tubular body with a plurality of circumferentially spaced longitudinal struts extending parallel to a longitudinal axis of said body, circumferentially adjacent pairs of said struts being interconnected solely ~~b)~~~~(a set)~~ by a set of linkages axially spaced from one another and defining a predetermined space between adjacent pairs of said struts, each of said linkages having a plurality of links angularly disposed relative to one another in an unexpanded condition such that when a radial force is exerted-on-said tubular body, relative rotation between adjacent links and plastic deformation occurs, thereby increasing said space between said adjacent pairs of said struts and permitting radial expansion of said stent, said struts inhibiting relative axial movement between said linkages and foreshortening of said body, each of said linkages having hinge points spaced apart along said linkage, said hinge points deforming upon radial expansion of said stent to facilitate relative rotation of said links, wherein said hinge points are provided by deformable zones of relative weakness along said links.

2. (original) A stent according to claim 1 wherein said zones of relative weakness are provided by a reduced cross-sectional area.